

the modem further including a transmitter that is adapted to be coupled to a distribution network of the communications system for providing upstream transmissions;

a controller circuit coupled to the modem to receive control signals over the control channel for the service unit; and

wherein the controller circuit selectively powers down the transmitter based on control signals received over the control channel when the service unit is idle.

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16. (New) A method for controlling power usage at a service unit of a telecommunications system, the method comprising:

determining whether a service unit is of a first type of service unit;

when the service unit is of a first type, determining whether the service unit is idle; and

when the service unit is idle,

powering down a transmitter of the service unit to conserve power usage until a request is received to use a line of the service unit, and

transmitting an idle pattern upstream when the service unit is powered down.

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#### Remarks

Claim 2-5 have been amended to remove the "step" language. Claims 6-16 have been added. Therefore claims 2-16 are now pending in this application. The above amendments to the specification are being made to conform the summary and abstract with the current claims. These amendments do not introduce any new matter.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 252-0014.

Respectfully submitted,

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